

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

TRUSTEES OF THE PAVERS AND ROAD BUILDERS
DISTRICT COUNCIL WELFARE, PENSION,
ANNUITY, AND APPRENTICESHIP, SKILL
IMPROVEMENT AND SAFETY FUNDS and THE
HIGHWAY, ROAD AND STREET CONSTRUCTION
LABORERS LOCAL UNION 1010,

16 CV _____

Plaintiffs,

-against-

ADMIRAL CONSTRUCTION LLC,

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs, by and through their attorneys, Virginia & Ambinder, LLP, as and for their Complaint, respectfully allege as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is a civil action pursuant to sections 502(a)(3) and 515 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, as amended, 29 U.S.C. §§ 1132(a)(3), 1145 (“ERISA”), and section 301 of the Labor Management Relations Act of 1947, 29 U.S.C. § 185 (“LMRA”), and other applicable law, to collect delinquent employer contributions to a group of employee benefit plans, and dues check-offs and other contributions that an employer was required to withhold from its employees’ pay and forward to the union, and for related relief.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1367, and pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §§ 185 and 1132(e)(1).

3. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §§ 185(a) and 1132(e)(2).

THE PARTIES

4. Plaintiffs are employer and employee trustees of the Pavers and Road Builders District Council Welfare, Pension, Annuity, and Apprenticeship, Skill Improvement and Safety Funds (collectively, the “Funds”). The Funds are multiemployer labor-management trust funds organized and operated in accordance with section 302(c) of the LMRA, 29 U.S.C. § 186(c). The Funds are employee benefit plans within the meaning of section 3(3) of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1002(3). The Funds are administered at 17-20 Whitestone Expressway, Suite 200, Whitestone, New York 11357.

5. Plaintiff The Highway, Road and Street Construction Laborers Local Union 1010 (the “Union”) is a labor organization within the meaning of Section 301 of the LMRA, 29 U.S.C. § 185, and represents employees in an industry affecting commerce as defined in Section 502 of the LMRA, 29 U.S.C. § 142, and Section 3(4) of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1002(4). The Union maintains its principal place of business at 17-20 Whitestone Expressway, Suite 200, Whitestone, New York 11357.

6. Upon information and belief, Defendant Admiral Construction LLC (“Admiral”) is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York. At relevant times, Defendant was engaged in business as an employer within the meaning of section 3(5) of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1002(5), and was an employer in an industry affecting commerce within the meaning of section 301 of the LMRA, 29 U.S.C. § 185. Defendant maintains its principal place of business at 323 Bergen Blvd., Fairview, New Jersey 07022.

CLAIM FOR RELIEF

7. Plaintiffs repeat the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 6 above and incorporate them herein by reference.

8. At relevant times, Defendant was a party to, or manifested an intention to be bound by, a collective bargaining agreement (the “Agreement”) with the Union.

9. The Union is a labor organization within the meaning of section 301 of the LMRA, 29 U.S.C. § 185, and represents employees in an industry affecting commerce as defined in section 502 of the LMRA, 29 U.S.C. § 142.

10. The Agreement required Defendant to make specified hourly contributions to the Funds (including amounts for related entities on behalf of which they act as collection agents) in connection with all work performed in the trade and geographical jurisdiction of the Union (“Covered Work”).

11. The Agreement requires Defendant to submit monthly reports to the Funds detailing how much Covered Work was performed by Defendant and how much corresponding contributions Defendant owes to the Funds.

12. Defendant reported to the Funds that it was required to contribute \$42,978.90 to the Funds in connection with Covered Work performed from November 2014 through August 2015. Defendant failed to make any of those contributions.

13. Defendant also owes the Union required dues check-offs and other contributions in connection with Covered Work performed by its employees for the period November 2014 through August 2015 in the amount of \$3,017.62.

14. Section 515 of ERISA provides that “[e]very employer who is obligated to make contributions to a multiemployer plan under the terms of the plan or under the

terms of a collectively bargained agreement shall, to the extent not inconsistent with law, make such contributions in accordance with the terms and conditions of such plan or such agreement.” 29 U.S.C. § 1145.

15. Defendant contravened both the Agreement and section 515 of ERISA by its failure to contribute \$42,978.90 to the Funds in connection with Covered Work performed from November 2014 through August 2015.

16. Under section 502(g)(2) of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g)(2), and under the Agreement and/or the documents and instruments governing the Funds, Defendant is liable to the Funds for delinquent contributions of \$42,978.90; interest of \$3,290.05 (calculated at the rate of 10% per annum); liquidated damages of \$8,595.78 (20% of the principal amount due); dues check offs and other contributions to the Union of \$3,017.62 and all reasonable attorneys’ fees, expenses, and costs incurred by the Funds in prosecuting this suit.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court:

- (1) Award judgment to Plaintiffs against Defendant for \$57,882.35;
- (2) Award Plaintiffs all reasonable attorneys’ fees, expenses, and costs that they incur in prosecuting this suit; and
- (3) Award Plaintiffs such other and further relief as is just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York
January 26, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

VIRGINIA & AMBINDER, LLP

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